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A LETTER TO THE RIGHT HONOURABLE THE Ld. Viſcount *B---ke.*

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A

LETTER

to

W. Musgrave.

BRITISH MUSEUM

A LETTER TO THE L. V. *B——ke, &c.*

My Lord,

IT will not be the leaſt of the Cauſes the World has to admire in you, that you bear with ſuch compoſedneſs and evenneſs of Mind, the preſent Adverſity of Fortune: But I know not whether I ſhould call that Adverſity or no; That which gives you

an opportunity of being truly Happy, by improving the wonderful Genius your very Enemies allow you to be Maſter of, in a calm and neceſſary Retreat from the Noiſe and Buſineſs of the World; and the free and uninterrupted Converſe of a few faſt Friends, and thoſe more early Acquaintance of yours. Your BOOKS, which a * Friend of ours once wittily ſaid, *Your L——p had miſtaken the true Uſe of, by thumbing and ſpoiling them with reading.* Whence it is probable, ſome eminent Authors will now be beholding to you for the like Uſage.

Tho' your Friends have many Reaſons to regret the want of you in Publick, yet it is conſolatory, that you ſo freely enjoy the Felicity of a private and happy Retirement; and are more eaſie under it, than thoſe, who, from miſtaken Notions of Life, are too apt to be concern'd for you.

There

* *Examiner.*

There are Examples ſufficient, which I need not Name to your L——p, of Great Men who have ſuffered by the like Viciſſitudes, and have cotemn'd the Shocks of Fortune, and all the little Spurns and Contumelies of their Enemies. Your L——p does not want a greatneſs of Soul, nor Philoſophy enough to immitate them; and I am very ſure, the moſt peeviſh of your Enemies, will not be able to deduce any Cauſe of Reflection from the ſufficiency of your Fortune: You have neither repaired a broken one, nor built a new one, yet have enough to ſuſtain the Honour your Deſert acquired, and which the Grandeur and Antiquity of your Family, without that Addition, might very juſtly have claimed.

Your Enemies therefore ſeem confin'd in their Exultations; that neither your Perſon nor your Fortune allow them any abſtracted Cauſe of Triumph: Only the beaten Road of Enmity lies open to them, the common Difference of Principle. Theſe Phenomena's, my L—, are eaſily ſolved; your L——p's

Character ſuffers in nothing but not floating with the preſent Tide: You have loſt no Friends, and, I believe, have got no Enemies by it.

It was Matter of Comfort to us of the former Claſs, to ſee thoſe pitchy Clouds once gathering, begin to diſpel, and that for ſome time we heard no more of Gibbets or Axes; of Plots, Leagues, and the numerous train of Accuſations, which your Enemies charged you with, it ſeem'd to be turn'd into admiration of your Conduct, that you were capable in ſuch difficult Times of Acting, to Steer clear of the many dangerous Shelves and Rocks which lay in the Way, and Obſtructions which ſeemed unſurmountable to any Genius but ſuch as your L—— p's.

But now, my L—d, we are alarm'd again, with a new and ſudden Noiſe of Impeachments; and the cry, like Flames that are ſometimes ſtifled, burſts out again with greater Violence. Your L—— p's Name is treated with an unlicenced Freedom, and nothing but the

he Block can poſſibly appeaſe the un-
eaſonable Humour of your Adverſa-
ies. It will be one great diſappoint-
ment to them, myL——, that you ap-
ear unmov'd at all theſe Menaces, and
ave been pleaſed to think, that they
eſign to afford you ſo favourable an op-
ortunity of making your Innocence
ppear: There is a great deal in a
ood Conſcience, and I know your
L—— p is ſo far poſſeſs'd of it, that
hey have not the Power to give you
ne uneaſy Thought.

How much of the immoderate Spi-
it of the Whigs does there appear
n this new and deafning Cry of Im-
eachments? No ſooner are they in-
eſted, as they imagine, with the
ower, but they are contriving the
oſt impetuous Methods of putting
in Practice; ſo that one muſt ac-
unt the Interval of Moderation
hich appeared in them from the
ceſſion of the King, to the Election
a Parliament, rather a Vice than a
irtue. They had exerted themſelves
on their firſt Victory as far as the
ſe wou'd bear; Men ſure were
never

never more elated than they, when they ſaw his Majeſty begin with ſhewing his Reſentment againſt your L—p and others of the late Miniſtry, and forming a new one entirely to your diſintereſt; ſuch from whom Reſentment, did no other Motives or Reaſons of State ſubſiſt, were ſufficient to lay you under very great Diſadvantages; but 'tis your L——p's Comfort, that they cannot ſay any fine things of the Goodneſs and Juſtice of the King, which you do not as abſolutely believe and acknowledge as themſelves; ſo well I know this, my L——, that I could wiſh your Heart was laid open to his Majeſty, that it might ſhew the generous Loyalty it harbours to him: How juſtly did your L——p evince this, when being ſummon'd upon another occaſion, you anſwer'd, *That had it been to throw your ſelf at his Majeſty's Feet, you would have flown to do it*, &c.

Give me leave to ſay, my L——, I know your Sentiments, know that the greateſt Concern, which poſſeſſes your generous Mind, is an Effect of not being

ing truly under ſtood, and that ſo much uncorrupted Loyalty ſhould be ſo unduly repreſented: But who is it ſuffers in this? Do's not your Country bear a ſhare with you, my L——, in the Misfortune, that ſo great a Genius is laid by and rendred uſeleſs, which was otherwiſe capable to afford the moſt ſignal Services to it? By this we ſee, my L——, that all other Cauſes bend to the Power of Reſentment; I think no Nation has experienc'd this more than we, nor are any more incapable of Cure; it is hardly rare here, to have Avarice made a Virtue, and Generoſity a Vice; to have Grimace and Inſincerity paſs for ſhining Qualities; whilſt undiſguiſed Loyalty and tranſcendent Merit appear as things inſignificant; to have Plunder and Rapine vouch'd Meritorious, and a few innocent Freedoms branded with the moſt infamous and opprobious Conſtructions.

'Tis to theſe, my L——, we owe your Lamented Abſence from Court, nay, from the Town; they are your Enemies indeed, my L——, that would not wiſh for your Converſation;

your

your L——p's good Nature, flowing Wit, and eaſie and diſengag'd manner of treating your Friends in private Converſation, are perfections that your verrieſt Adverſaries will not deny you to excel in: Are they conſcious then, that theſe ſhould be perceptible in you, that they keep you at Arms length from the Court? If this be the Caſe, we will allow their Fears to be juſt.

I muſt now ſhift my Argument, and grant that your Enemies have good Reaſon to treat you thus; to paint you in that monſtrous Form they have given a Copy of; for ſhould your real Picture appear, ſet off with all the Luſtre it deſerves; that Vivacity and Sprightlineſs in your Behaviour; that eaſineſs of Addreſs, and generous and flowing Courteſy, ſo natural to you, it might probably be attended with a Conſequence not very acceptable to them; for Virtue, my L——, when it has ſcope to ſhine, when it has but a Light open for its Influence to appear, it will ſoon break thro' the moſt dark and lowring Clouds; but what ſhall we ſay, when the very Sun

Sun it ſelf is ſometimes obſcur'd by the Vapours which it exhales from the Earth.

Pardon me, my L——, if it be Matter of Tranſport to me to enlarge on your Accompliſhments. Your Enemies make no attempt to charge you in a Perſonal way, and I have therefore the greater reaſon to be very particular therein, that it may riſe in proportion to that Mountain your Enemies are going to raiſe againſt your Conduct in Publick Management, tho' it is much to be feared, my L——, whether they will admit of any Equivalent or no, if the Law ſhould give them Power to determine in their own Favour.

Whether they were at firſt ſure of a Parliament to their Minds, or did diſtruſt ſome other Branch of their cementing Power, I can't tell; but 'tis certain, my L——, that between the two Grand *Eclats*, we had ſome Intervals of Repoſe, as I have before hinted. I began to commend the favourable Diſpoſition of the Party, and to think

it poſſible, that now a Spirit of Peace was like to Reign among us; But how have I been miſtaken? No ſooner were they pretty well ſecur'd of a majority in the Houſe, but they have renewed Hoſtilities, and are levelling new Fury againſt the late M——y. Surely they cannot but allow your L——p the juſt Praiſe of being indifferently concern'd how Elections went, and of ſitting ſtill under your own Vine, whilſt the reſt of Mankind, were all in the utmoſt hurry, propagating their ſeveral Intereſts.

Certainly, my L————, a Man might juſtly pretend to derive this from the Motives of a good Conſcience; could your Enemies be prevail'd with to hear any thing in your Favour, tho' never ſo reaſonable or well grounded: If this were poſſible, I would beg them to take one Paſſage with them, borrow'd from among the many empty and prejudic'd Libels that have made free with your L—p's Name and Character; which I ſhould believe I had no more occaſion to repeat to you, than I think pertinent,

did

did I not know that your L——p is above the notice of ſuch worthleſs things, and look on them with too much Contempt to give them a Reading.

The Paſſage I mean, my L——, is this: The Author of a certain noted * Libel, having in his firſt Part involv'd you in the general Scandal of that corrupt Piece, and laid as odious Colours on you as on the Reſt, whom he thinks fit to treat in the moſt falſe and opprobrious manner. He comes in the ſecond Part to tell us, that is by the *Nick-Name* he is pleaſed to beſtow on your L——p,

'That indeed as Lord *John Bull*, was 'always found in his Services (the 'Staff) when things of ſuch a nice 'Nature came before him, no Man 'can be ſo weak to believe he could 'be drawn into the ſame Game which 'theſe People were playing. 'Tis true, 'he is now in the Staff's ſtead, as to

* *Hiſt. of the* White-Staff.

'the Odium of the Practices, and the
'current of the Times bears down all
'that can be ſaid in his Defence: Our
'Hiſtory therefore ſhall only enter this
'Caveat in his Favour in few Words,
'and leave it to Time to make the
'Truth of it appear, *viz.* He neither
'had Folly enough to engage in ſo pre-
'poſterous an Attempt as that of the
'Pretender; nor had he Ignorance e-
'nough to be led by the People, our
'Hiſtory is now mentioning, into any
'thing whatſoever; if he joyn'd with
'them in any Meaſures at all it was
'on this foot, That he knew them too
'well, not to believe he could one
'time or other turn them from their
'new Projects, or overturn them in
'the Proſecution of them.

And in Concluſion of a Speech, which he is pleaſed to put into your L—— p's Mouth, he goes farther in your Favour; (if the Commendations of ſuch an Author are not rather to be deem'd a Scandal than an Encomium) when ſpeaking of your L—p, he ſays,

'He

'He acknowledged, that he be-
'lieved as things ſtood then, that up-
'on the Arrival of the Succeſſor, the
'Whigs would recover their Intereſt
'in the Adminiſtration, which he was
'ſorry for, not only on Account of his
'own particular Affair, but on the
'Account of the Publick; but he de-
clared, *that is your L——p did*, 'That
'he would rather bring in the Whigs
'himſelf, tho' he was ſure to to be de-
'ſtroyed by them, than be concerned
'with any one to bring in a Popiſh
'Pretender, which could have no o-
'ther effect than the Ruin of his Coun-
'try, and the involving us all in a
'Civil War, making *Britain* the Field
'of Blood and the Seat of Deſolation.

Now, my L——, as I have been fully aſſur'd of the Reaſon of the Author's Converſion, and of his Servile entering on your L——p's Praiſe, I am not to wonder at it; but I cannot but think it ſtrange, that when the Man was endeavouring to ſpeak Truth, he ſhould utter ſo many Falſities; and when he was abſolutely falſifying, he ſhould deviate into ſo much Truth;

for

for I take leave to ſay, my L——, That all who have the Honour to be truly acquainted with your Character know, that what he has ſaid by chance, is what you really Merit in the moſt undoubted Sence; no Man, my L—, will queſtion your Parts, upon which one part of the Affirmation depends; and there are but few who will challenge your Loyalty, and thoſe few, my L——, I take leave to ſay, muſt do it upon Motives of Prejudice, either thro' a defect of Judgment, or want of Candour.

But, my L——, I have now another Piece before me, which I beg leave to be a little particular on, tho' I know the Scorn your L—— p treats all things of that Nature with. Was the World at this time poſſeſs'd with half the Candour they ought to be, I might let it paſs with the ſame Contempt; but conſidering the Head it gains among inadvertent People, I take it for granted I ſhall have your L— p's Excuſe for what I do. Did the Nation believe you wanted as little to be Vindicated as I do, it would be waſting

ing Ink and Paper to write two Words on that Subject; and it might otherwiſe diſcourage me, that I know that your L——p is not ſollicitous what the World thinks, whilſt you have a Mind at Eaſe, and are prepared againſt the worſt your Enemies can charge you with.

But this general way of doing your L—p Juſtice, will not anſwer the Methods ſuch have taken: You are openly attacked in the moſt tender, as well as the moſt important Point; not only your Faith, Honour and Loyalty are boldly ſtruck at; but even your Life is requir'd at the Hands of Juſtice, as tho' the Party (inſtead of being eſteem'd Blind) were now able to pronounce that Goddeſs ſo keen ſighted, as to be able to ſee things inviſible; but we reſt aſſur'd, my L—, that thoſe Scales Juſtice holds, are not to be weighed down by Calumny and Detraction, Reaſon and impartial Truth are only the Balance ſhe admits of. If ſo, my L——, you will run little hazard in undergoing the Teſt; nay, I have the Vanity to believe, that

all

all your Enemies who are knowing Men, are as much in this Opinion as my ſelf.

But this Knowledge will ſpread but little in your L——p's Favour, which your Adverſaries have the keeping of; who, with much more Pleaſure, will fly out into a Hundred Extravagancies againſt you, and endeavour to impreſs Sentiments in the People very Prejudicial to your Character and Reputation. This, my L—, brings me back to the Reaſons I was giving for endeavouring to make ſomething of a Defence for your L——p, before theſe falſe and envious Suggeſtions eat too far into the Hearts of the People, and poſſibly into the Minds of ſome, who ſhall come to give their Cenſure of your Conduct.

I hope neither your L——p, nor the World will concieve, that I mean by this to give the * Author any Reputation; Your L——p is ſomething acquainted with his Character; he has be-

* *Letter to the E. of* Halifax.

before, I think, done you the Favour to uſe ſome Freedom with you, and it is poſſible he remembers with ſome Anguiſh the return your L——p was pleas'd to make for this. If this be the Caſe, it is a Misfortune to the young Man, that he has nipt his Reputation in the Bud, by meeting with a general diſlike of his Labours: But this I ſhall defer awhile, till I have notic'd ſome remarkable Paſſages in his Book, chiefly relating to your L——p, not knowing whether it may fall into your L——'s Hands, or your L——p may think it worth the peruſal: And in doing this, I ſhall be very brief; for indeed there's nothing of that Moment, to give any Man the trouble of dwelling long upon it.

Having Appoligized to the Noble Lord, he has aſſumed the Liberty to Write to, and introduced part of his Reaſons for the Neceſſity of Impeaching the late M——y, he comes in a few Pages to the following Poſition among the reſt;

My Lord, you ſee what Riots and what Tumults have been raiſed in many Parts of

this Iſland, particularly on Days ſet apart for publick Joy on the happy Acceſſion of our good King; and ye cannot but have obſerved, what Inſolent and Seditious Libels have been diſper's'd Abroad, highly Reflecting both on him and his Government, by thoſe whom its Lenity has encouraged. Can their be a worſe Reaſon given, that the late Miniſtry ſhould be Impeached, than becauſe Mobs and Tumults have been raiſed in many Parts of the Kingdom; or ſcandalous Libels diſperſed Abroad? What a Hair-brain'd Accuſation does this appear to be? How ſhallow muſt a Man look that heaps ſuch Follies together? Or how much more Ignorant, that could expect to be well heard in ſuch a Cauſe? We all look'd upon the Crimes charged on the late Miniſtry to be precedent to the King's Acceſſion; now 'tis from Facts that have ſucceeded it: To define this with the leaſt Reaſon, one muſt naturally conclude there is nothing but random Conjectures in it, and that neither before nor ſince, there is any tollerable Ground for this Youngſters Fable. But as I have promis'd your L——p to be brief in my Remarks, I muſt curb my ſelf very much

much to be able to keep my Word. Every Line affords ſo much Matter for Reflection, that a Man muſt be a great Maſter of himſelf to hold fair with Decorum. In another Place he proceeds thus,

Now, were the Heads of this FACTION ſeized, were there are a certain Appearance of their being brought to Anſwer for theſe Crimes, for which no Puniſhment could be too rigorous, the Spirits of the whole Party wou'd droop, and our glorious Monarch might promiſe himſelf a peaceable Enjoyment of the Britiſh Throne all the reſt of his Days. I'll ſwear to your L——p it is not leſs than Matter of joy to me, to think that the Enemy have only ſuch weak Batteries to raiſe againſt the late Miniſtry, and that they are obliged to ſupport them with ſuch tottering Arguments. *Were the Heads of the FACTION ſeized, and brought to Anſwer theſe Crimes, &c.* This ſeems to imply, That the Tail of the Faction, as he's pleas'd to call them, having been guilty of Riots and Tumults, the Heads are to be ſeiz'd and puniſh'd for it, *and no Puniſhment too*

rigorous. I hope, my L—d, better Reaſons will be given, before any one at all is called publickly in Queſtion, and much more, till any one is puniſh'd. What a wretched State do we live in, that every pert noiſy Boy, dares put the Legiſlature in mind of its Duty; and how great a Diſhonour is it to the Adminiſtration, to have no better Advocates? I am ſorry the Son of ſuch a Father, ſhould not have ſhewn more Senſe or Modeſty, but then I muſt aſſure your L———p, that I think he could not have miſſed of better Inſtructions would the Caſe have born it.

It ſeems, my L—d, under his Senſe, that the late Miniſtry is to be anſwerable for every little Agony or Convulſion that is felt in the State, let it happen how, or when it will. We have heard, and we know, that where any one of them has been but within forty Miles of one of theſe Tumults, he has been preſently charg'd as the Abettor of it; and notwithſtanding ſome honeſt Gentlemen were the firſt Diſcoverers of the diſperſing a late treaſonable Libel, they have not failed of being charg'd as the Abettors of it. Cer-

Certainly, my L—d, the Whigs ſhould not be the firſt to complain of this Licence; the freedom they took is beyond all compariſon, and 'tis Part of the beſt Jeſt I have known, that this Author in particular ſhould make a complaint of that kind, who has reaped up at the end of his Book, a Catalogue of very pernicious Libels againſt the Adminiſtration he liv'd in, and ought to have lived quietly under; unleſs he purſues it with an *Inuendo*, that her late Majeſty had not the Authority to Govern, nor her Miniſters any Right to their Offices. He then felt that Lenity he now complains of, and would have that Noble Spring of *Engliſh* Liberty entirely damn'd up by ſome new act of Cruelty; and this by a Method very extraordinary, no leſs than Puniſhing with the utmoſt Rigour, the Heads of a Party who were in the Intereſt of, and Meaſures of the late Queen; a Party who have always been fam'd for Duty to their Soveraign, and the Guardians of Religion and Liberty: And this whether they are actually Guilty or no; but becauſe, perhaps, an Anonymous Pamphlet or two is publiſh'd on the ſame Side,

Side, which they may know nothing of, at leaſt, no more than giving them the bear Reading. I have heard of a poor Man, who when he was Inſulted in the Streets by the rude Boys, without giving himſelf the trouble to purſue the real Authors, would reak his Vengeance on the next Perſon that came by him, ſaying, He was ſure they muſt be of the ſame Party, and Abettors of the *Faction* againſt him.

But to the next Paſſage. That contrary to the Grand Alliance, *the Negotiations had been carried on for many Months, and even brought to a Concluſion, before any one of the Confederates were made privy to the leaſt Step in them.* This my L——, is a very heavy Charge, if nothing is ſaid to it; but your L——p knows there is not one Word of Truth in what he Advances. Nothing is more Evident, than that the War was vigouroufly puſhed on till the Year 1711, and that the Duke of *M——h* was then at the Head of the Confederate Army to the End of that Campaign; and ſure it will be allow'd that his Grace had no Orders to ſpare the Enemy. The Expedition

pedition to *Quebec*, is another Inſtance that no Negotiation had been brought to a Concluſion at that Time. Therefore, my L—, if we prove that the Confederates had Notice of the Propoſitions from *France* before theſe two memorable Acts of War were entred on, it will certainly wipe out the Falſity.

Why then my L—, as your L—p very well knows the Miniſtry acknowledg'd to have receiv'd a Propoſal from *France* in *April* 1711, which was preſently communicated to, and approved by the States; but upon their thinking it neceſſary that the Queen ſhould engage the *French* to explain themſelves more particularly, it was the latter end of *September* 1711, and no longer, that the Preliminaries were publickly owned here; but of which, as I have obſerv'd, the States had had Notice before, and this was before either the Campaign in *Flanders* ended, or the *Quebec* Expedition began. Now, my L—, where ſhall we hunt for the many Months *that thoſe Negotiations had been concluded, before any of the Confederates were made privy to them?*

As

As to the Preliminaries publish'd by Count *Gallas*, That was, as your L—p knows, in the Interval between *April* and *September* 1711, and their being then disown'd at Court, might be very reasonable, since at the Instance of the States, her Majesty had press'd the *French* to explain themselves more particularly, and as this might occasion some Alteration, nothing certain could then be own'd. But a Word or two more to this Author.

We are told (says he) *of frequent discoveries of a Correspondance with St.* Germains *first, and afterwards with* Lorrain, *and that when a certain* Viscount *made a Voyage into* France *to receive the Bounty of his Countries Enemies, he did not return to his native Land, without first paying his Duty to his vagrant Master*: 'Tis a happiness, my L——, that those who told this were not able to make it out. Believe me, my L——, he has made a vigorous push at your L——p's Head. If this be true, I know not how you will get off; for my part I shall be of his Opinion, *That none but an Enemy to his Country can consent to let you escape unpunished.* Your L——p had

had beſt begin your Prayers, the Time is like to be very ſhort. If this does not ſharpen their Vengeance againſt you, we may certainly venture to conclude your L—p is innocent indeed.

But he has not done with you yet my L——, *We were told* (ſays he farther) *That the* Voluptuous Secretary *had drove with ſo much Expedition, that all Things were almoſt ripe for an Invaſion, and that the Pretender would not have been abſent long from this Nation, had not the unforeſeen Accident of the Queen's Death prevented all their Deſigns*, &c.

I expect quickly, my L——, to hear of you under a very ſtrict Confinement: Why ſhould you be ſuffered to live at large, and appear in the open face of Heaven, to range the Fields and Woods in unconcern'd Diverſions, who are loaded with this heavy Charge? Methinks it ſhould ſink you into the deepeſt Melancholly. Certainly your L—p muſt be endued with ſome uncommon greatneſs of Mind, that can ſit eaſy under theſe Circumſtances; under this vaſt weight of Oppreſſion, the Name of *Traytor*, and

what not; when it raiſes ſuch Apprehenſions in your Friends: Yet who among that Number caſting an Eye but to your eminent Zeal for the Proteſtant Religion, your ſteady Conduct in oppoſing all Meaſures deſtructive to our National Church, and your promoting the Intereſt and Welfare of your Country, which upon all occaſions you have done, and helpt to free it from all the Calamities it labour'd under; And laſtly your undoubted Affection to the *Hanover Succeſſion*, and the Perſon of His preſent Majeſty: Who then, I ſay, that caſting an Eye back to theſe Things, can be ſo unjuſt to his Reaſon, as not to aſcribe the Tranquility of Mind, that Contempt of all theſe glaring Accuſations which appears in that to any other Cauſe, but a perfect ſatisfaction of your own Innocence. *Let the ſtricken Deer go weep, your L——p's Soul is free.*

And this ſaid — We can ſtand the ſhock of the next Quotation, not only with Patience, but with Pleaſure.

Not only the Honour of our Sovereig (ſays the Author) *which is a Great a*

No

Noble Motive; not only the Juſtice due to our abuſed Country, which is an Incitement of equal Weight, but even the ſecurity of our whole Conſtitution for the future, demands the ſpeedy Impeachment of the late Miniſtry; We need not queſtion then, the Peacemakers will anſwer for their Treaſons with their Heads.

Your L——p I doubt not is prepar'd, you ſee there is no leſs than your Head aim'd at; but 'tis a Comfort however, that Innocence is acquitted by the ſame Right, by which Guilt is Condemned.

The ſeizing of the Earl of S——d's (traffor) Papers lately, has given a great vent to the Rumour of Impeachments, and 'tis now encreas'd to be almoſt a general Topick, eſpecially ſince the promiſing ſigns of having a P——t to their purpoſe; and this, ſays our Author, with *the Noble Anſwer, to the Noble Addreſs of the Lieutenancy of the City of* London; *and moſt of all, the Proclamation for calling a new Parliament, ſeem to promiſe the Impeachment of the late Miniſtry in a few Months.*

Give me leave, in Anſwer to this, to ſay, my L—, That I cannot ſee how any Miniſter can be ſafe in Tranſacting any thing relating to Peace, if your L—p, or any of the late Queen's Servants are in Danger. If a Man acting in entire Obedience to their Sovereigns Commands, and thoſe Commands made Juſt, by the undoubted Right of the Crown to make Peace or War at Pleaſure. If the moving with all the caution becoming Wiſe an Loyal Servants; To have every ſtep approved in Parliament, and ratified in the Concluſion, by full Conſent of both Houſes, and this again back'd by the univerſal approbation of the whole Kingdom, in Addreſſes from all parts of *Great-Britain*. If after all this, I ſay, and having all theſe Facts atteſted by the Records of Parliament, by Precedents of future Times, you are call'd to Account, I cannot ſee which way it is poſſible for any Miniſter to act with ſafety in the Affair of Peace. I conclude therefore, my L—, That if ever They ſhall be called to Account, they will be fortified with the ſtrongeſt Arguments to juſtify their Conduct.

But I think I have now treſpaſſed on your L—p's Patience long enough; It is with ſome Delight I can tell your L——p, that this Piece has met with a general Contempt and Diſlike, and that the good P—te was one of the firſt who enter'd his Proteſt againſt his Son's proceeding: Both Whig and Tory join in their Sentiments the ſame way, and none more I hear, than the Noble L—d to whom it is Addreſſed: And if your Enemies, my L——, are forward to do you this Juſtice, conſider the Opinion of your Friends. After all this Trouble, I take leave to ſubſcribe my ſelf,

My Lord,

Your Lordſhip's moſt Humble

and moſt Obedient Servant, *&c.*

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